

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (P"R SECTO 1055)

H:RAFLATEN

PM:TSTERN

AID/NESA:BRICHARDSON

S/S - MR. BORG

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 016396

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EAID

SUBJECT: FY-77 ASSISTANCE PLANNING FIGURES FOR ISRAEL

REF: TEL AVIV 0325

FOR CHARGE FROM ATHERTON

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS APPROVED FY-77 PLANNING FIGURES FOR ISRAEL OF DOLS 1.0 BILLION IN FMS CREDITS, DOLS 785 MILLION IN SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, DOLS 9 MILLION IN PL-480, AND A DOLS 25-MILLION HOUSING GUARANTY. FIGURES ARE RESULT OF STRENUOUS DEBATE AND MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WITHIN ADMINISTRATION. PRESIDENT'S CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION PROBABLY WILL GO TO HILL LATE THIS MONTH OR EARLY NEXT, ABOUT TIME OF RABIN VISIT AND, ACCORDING REFTEL, ABOUT TIME GOI WILL HAVE ITS COLORED PAPER READY FOR US.

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2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, AND REFLECTED HERE IN LOW-LEVEL

ISRAELI EMBASSY QUERIES, ISRAELIS ALREADY SPECULATING ABOUT MAGNITUDE OF FY-77 FIGURE. FIGURES WIDELY KNOWN IN WASHINGTON AND IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT WE SHOULD NOW INFORM ISRAELIS FORMALLY HERE AND THROUGH YOU IN ISRAEL. MAIN SOURCE OF ISRAELI UNHAPPINESS WITH PLANNING FIGURE WILL OF COURSE BE DOLS 1.0 BILLION IN FMS CREDITS

3. DEPARTMENT WILL BE INFORMING DINITZ OF FY-77 FIGURES TODAY JANUARY 22 AND YOU SHOULD INFORM ALLON, OR RABINOWITZ, AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ALONG LINES IN FOLLOWING PARA.

4. TALKING POINTS:

-- PRESIDENT HAS APPROVED AN FY-77 PLANNING FIGURE FOR ISRAEL OF DOLS 1.0 BILLION IN FMS CREDITS, DOLS 785 MILLION IN SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, DOLS 9 MILLION IN PL-480, AND A DOLS 25-MILLION HOUSING GUARANTY. HE HAS DECIDED AS WELL THAT BOTH FMS AND SA WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN GRANT AND LOAN AT SAME RATIO AS IN FY 76 (TWO-THIRDS GRANT FOR SA, ONE-HALF GRANT FOR FMS);

(-- IF DINITZ ASKS ABOUT THE FIFTH QUARTER, AND HE PROBABLY WILL, OUR REPLY IS THAT THE FIFTH QUARTER IS SUBSUMED IN FY-77, AND IN THESE FIGURES;)

-- WE WANT GOI TO BE AWARE OF THIS DECISION, AND OF ITS BACKGROUND, SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE IT INTO ACCOUNT IN YOUR OWN ECONOMIC PLANNING;

-- THESE FIGURES REFLECT STRENUOUS DEBATE AND THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION;

-- THE CONSTRAINTS OF OUR OWN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS--INCLUDING MOST PARTICULARLY PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES FOR ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT--HAVE BEEN BALANCED MORE CAREFULLY THAN EVER BEFORE AGAINST OUR INTERESTS AND OBLIGATIONS ABROAD;

-- WE HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR NEEDS WITH THE GREATEST CARE
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AND CONCERN. WITHIN THE WORLD-WIDE NEEDS WHICH WE PERCEIVED, THE PRESIDENT EXAMINED A WIDE VARIETY OF LEVELS AND PRIORITIES WITH A VIEW TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR FRIENDS AND ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS;

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THE FIGURE FOR ISRAEL WILL MEET YOUR ESSENTIAL NEEDS AND WILL SERVE TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE IN THE AREA WHICH WE CONSIDER ESSENTIAL BOTH IN DETERRING

WAR AND ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF PEACE;

-- THE PRESIDENT'S PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS OF THESE AND
OTHER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FIGURES WILL NOT GO FORWARD TO
THE HILL UNTIL LATE THIS MONTH OR EARLY NEXT MONTH, AND
WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THESE FIGURES CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT
YOU NOT RESPOND TO THE SPECULATION ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH
IS ALREADY APPEARING IN YOUR PRESS. ROBINSON

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